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all of them must be supplied with clothing and provisions. Messrs H. & K. will inform you fully how this has been and is being done. We think every possible measure has been taken to secure promptness and economy in relieving want.

But there is a limit to the means of our citizens, farmers and merchants, and some government, either State or National, should immediately come to our help, or we shall *all*, an impoverished and starving people be in St. Paul Knocking at your doors. I cannot command language to paint to you the necessities of the emergency for *prompt and efficient action*.

The food and clothing, fuel and bedding is being taken from our houses, the goods from our stores, the grain and vegetables from our fields, to feed and supply this immense crowd of homeless, starving, naked people,—*some* of them, I am almost inclined to say to you, made so by want of proper energy in sending relief; or rather in *going* to their relief, for no one can find any fault with the action of the State Administration in sending.

The suggestions made in the letter of Gov Donelly dated "Tuesday 10 A. M." at this place, meet with our entire approbation.

If Capt Saunders will not, as U. S. Quartermaster, provide for these people we urge you to appoint a State Quartermaster who will do it, and see that our citizens are remunerated for necessary expenditures already incurred. Any other plan, however, that is more in accordance with your judgment and will answer the same End, will be equally acceptable to us.

Begging however that your action in the premises be *immediate*,
I am most respectfully your obt servant
HENRY A SWIFT¹

[*Endorsed:*] Henry A. Swift Aug 29, 1862 report of the condition of things at St Peter

CONSCRIPTION IN ENGLAND DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WAR

The suggestion that England might possibly resort to conscription in the present war lends especial interest to the following document, which is one of several presented to the Min-

¹ Henry A. Swift was at this time state senator from the nineteenth district. The following year he was elected president *pro tempore* of the senate and became lieutenant governor on the resignation of Ignatius Donnelly; when Governor Ramsey resigned to take his seat in the United States Senate, Mr. Swift succeeded him as governor, serving from July 10, 1863 to January 11, 1864.

nesota Historical Society by John Bowe.¹ It will be noted that the names of two members of the Bowe family appear among the signatures to the document. The marks preceding the names are not to be taken as an indication that the signers were unable to write. Each signature is in a different handwriting, and the mark was probably used to add formality to the document.

Minutes of an Agreement entered into by the several subscribers to these Presents being Inhabitants or propriators of Lands or Ocupyors of Lands Tenements or hereditaments in the Township of Benaldeth of the one Part and Thomas Westray of Benaldeth of the other part Wittnesseth that Whereas the said Thomas Westray is Balloted to serve in the Militia or Army of reserve and must either serve himselfe hire a Substitute or pay his fine and whereas he the said Thomas Westray was entered into a Club which depossided a small sum of Money towards hireing a substitute which said Money is very far short for the said purpose and in order to Incourage and Assist him to hire a Substitute unmarry'd or one with only a very small family that is one whose family is not likely to be chargable to our said hamelet in consideration of which we whose Names are hereunto Subscribed or marks made Do hereby severally agree to give the sum set opposit our respective Names to the said Thomas Westray or order If he hires and gets sworn in a Young Man unmarryd as is abovementioned a Substitute to serve in the Malitia or Army of Reserve, And It is further agreed by the said parties to these presents that If the Law Compels or can Compell the said hamelet or township to pay any part of the said Money for hireing a Substitute as is abovementioned, All such as have or hereafter may Subscribe any Money to this agreement shall have such money considered as part of payment to the Rate that we may be compeled to pay by the said Law as is abovementioned In Wittness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands this 10th Day of August in Year of our Lord 1803.

	£	S	D
× Mungo Simpson	1	1	
× John Pingney Jr	2	2	

¹ See page 65 below.

		£	S	D
×	Willil Rowlandie [?]	0	10	6
×	W ^m Bowe	1	1	
×	W ^m Greenhow	1	1	
×	John Swinburn	1	1	
×	John Pingney	0	10	6
×	William Bowe Junior	0	10	6

FUNERAL EXPENSES IN ENGLAND A CENTURY AGO

The following document, also from the Bowe papers, presents an interesting side light on funeral customs a hundred years ago. The information about prices of various commodities is also of considerable interest. It is noteworthy that the smallest item in each list is the payment to the parson. The document is here published primarily to illustrate the fact that so apparently worthless a paper as an old statement of accounts may become with the lapse of time a valuable source for social and economic history.

Money laid out By John Bowe for the Funeral of John Dryden

	£	S	D
A Coffin Plaite	0	5	0
Shroude	0	8	6
Makeing Shroude	0	2	6
Half a pound of Tobacco and pipes	0	2	10
20¼ pounds of Chease at 8 pence a pound	0	13	6
4 pounds of White Suggar	0	5	4
half a stone of Brown suggar at 9 D	0	5	3
A Quarter of a Stone of sugar at 10 D	0	2	10
Thre pounds of Candels	0	2	7
peper	0	0	4
A Stone of Barley	0	4	0
half a pound of Black tea	0	4	0
half a pound of Green tea	0	6	0
A Gallon of Rum	0	16	0
A Gallon of Gin	0	14	0
A Quarter Cask of Ale	0	17	6
Parson one Shilling and Clark	0	5	0
Bread	1	7	0